

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SIL-01

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R 251041Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 637

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYJKAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, NO

SUBJ: NORWAY'S FUTURE PRIME MINISTER APPEALS FOR COOPERATION  
FROM PARTIES OF CENTER

REFS: (A) OSLO 4359 (B) OSLO 4685 (NOTAL) (C) OSLO 3954

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED . SUMMARY. HIGHLIGHTS OF OCT 21-22  
"THRONE SPEECH" DEBATE WAS LABOR PARTY PARLIAMENTARY  
LEADER AND FUTURE PRIME MINISTER ODVAR NORDLI'S  
UNUSUALLY COMPLIMENTARY TREATMENT OF TWO MAJOR "MIDDLE"  
PARTIES AND HIS STRONG OPEN APPEAL TO THEM FOR  
CONTINUED AD HOC LEGISLATIVE COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY  
ON BUDGET ITEMS. MIDDLE PARTIES REAFFIRMED THEIR  
OWN PROGRAMS, NEITHER RESPONDING TO LABOR'S BLANDISH-  
MENTS NOR TO THOSE OF CONSERVATIVES FOR BLOC PAR-  
LIAMENTARY OPPOSITION TO LABOR GOVERNMENT. NORDLI  
ALSO LEFT SMALL OPENING TO FAR LEFT SOCIALIST  
LEFT PARTY (SV) TO SUPPORT LABOR, BUT ONLY ON LABOR'S  
TERMS. SV COMPLAINED ABOUT LAVOR'S CENTRIST  
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OREIENTATION, BUT TOOK CONCILIATORY APPROACH.

OTHERWISE, DEBATE WAS MARKED BY CONTINUATION FROM RECENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN OF ACRID EXCHANGE BETWEEN CONSERVATIVES AND LABOR OVER WHETHER OR NOT SOCIALISM AND DEMOCRACY WERE COMPATIBLE, AND BY AN SV CHALLENGE AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE AS TO WHETHER NORWEGIAN POLICY AGAINST ATOMIC WEAPONS IS VIOLATED IF SHIPS CARRYING ATOMIC WEAPONS VISIT NORWEGIAN PORTS (REF B). LOOKING TOWARD THE 1977 ELECTIONS, THE LABOR PARTY IS OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO SPLIT THE NON-SOCIALIST OPPOSITION; THE "BOURGEOIS" PARTIES ARE MANEUVERING TO ENHANCE THEIR RESPECTIVE STRENGTH IN ANY FUTURE COALITION GOVERNMENT; AND SV IS MARKING TIME WHILE IT TRIES TO PUT HUMPTY-DUMPTY BACK TOGETHER AGAIN. END SUMMARY.

1. LABOR APPEALS TO MISSLE PARTIES: ODVAR NORDLI. THE LABOR PARTY'S STORTING LEADER AND NEXT PRIME MINISTER, ANSWERED THE QUESTIONS ON WHAT DIRECTION HE PLANNED TO LEAD THE LABOR PARTY ON OCT 21 WHEN HE OPENED THE STORTING DEBATE ON THE THRONE SPEECH BY OFFERING HIS HAND TO THE TWO MAJOR "MIDDLE" PARTIES--THE CENTER AND CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY-- TO COOPERATE IN THE UPCOMING STORTING SESSION. AT THE SAME TIME, HE ATTACKED THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY AND LEFT ONLY A NARROW OPENING FOR COLLABORATION ON THE LEFT WITH THE SOCIALIST LEFT PARTY (SV).

2. NORDLI'S TALK WAS REMARKABLE FOR ITS PRAISE OF CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S AND CENTER PARTIES AND THEIR PROGRAMS. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER EXTENT TO WHICH THEY RECOGNIZE NEED FOR SOLIDARITY, COMMON RESPONSIBILITY PLANNING AND DIRECTION BY GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE WELFARE, EQUALITY AND SECURITY OF CITIZENS, PROTECTION OF RESOURCES AND BALANCED AND DECENTRALIZED DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY, THUS MOVING AWAY FROM LAISSES-FAIRE LIBERALISM. IN HIS TACTICAL MANEUVER TO DIVIDE THE TWO MAJOR MIDDLE PARTIES FROM THEIR POTENTIAL CONSERVATIVE ALLY, NORDLI PORINTEDLY ABSTAINED FROM USING HABITUAL TERMS "BOURGOIS" TO DESCRIBE THEM, HE ACKNOWLEDGE D IDEOLOGICAL AND PROGRAM DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LABOR AND MIDDLE PARTIES, BUT STRESSED NEED AND FEASIBILITY OF CONTINUING AD HOC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COOPERATION IN PASSING LEGISLATION AND PORTIONS OF BUDGET ON WHICH THEY AGREED. HE ALSO INVITED SV'S COOPERATION, BUT WARNED THAT LABOR DID NOT INTEND TO MODIFY ITS POSITIONS, PARTICULARLY ON BUDGETARY APPROACH TO NEXT SPRING'S WAGE SETTLEMENT.

3. CONSERVATIVES ATTACH SOCIALISM AS UNDEMOCRATIC: CONSERVATIVES DEBATE LEADER KAARE WILLOCH HAMMERED AT PARTY'S RECENT ELECTION THEME THAT LABOR'S SOCIALISM

THREATENS DEMOCRACY, NORDLI AND OTHER LABOR LEADERS OF COURSE  
REJECTED THE ACCUSATION, UNDERLINING THAT SHARP DISTINCTION  
BETWEEN LABOR AND THE COMMUNISTS.

4. MIDDLE PARTIES UNCOMMITTED: CENTER (FARMERS')  
PARTY PARLIAMENTARY LEADER STEENBERG IGNORED BOTH  
NORDLI'S APPEAL AND CONSERVATIVE PRESSURE FOR NON- SOCIALIST  
UNITY, SAYING THAT HIS PARTY DID NOT INTEND TO  
GANG UP SYSTEMATICALLY ON LABOR. HE STRESSED CENTER PARTY'S  
INTEREST IN MODERATING THE INDUSTRIAL GROWTH RATE,  
PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND KEEPING PEOPLE ON FARMS AND  
IN SMALL TOWNS. CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY  
PARLIAMENTARY LEADER LARS KORVALD FOCUSSED NARROWLY  
ON ABORTION AND OTHER SPECIAL "CHRISTIAN" ISSUES,  
PROTESTING LABOR'S LEGISLATION LAST YEAR. HE SAID  
HE LOOKED FORWARD TO NON-SOCIALIST COOPERATION AFTER  
1977 ELECTION, BUT REFRAINED FROM ANY RESPONSE TO  
NORDLI'S BLANDISHMENTS. HE GAVE NO HINTS AS TO WHERE  
HIS PARTY WILL STAND THIS FALL.

5. SV MEAK AND MILD, EXCEPT FOR ATOM SHIP VISIT CHALLENGE:  
SV'S NEW PARLIAMENTARY LEADER BERG FURRE, OPENED HIS  
REMARKS BY QUESTIONING WHETHER RECENT VISITS OF US  
WARSHIPS TO OSLO VIOLATED NORWEGIAN POLICY REJECTING  
STATIONING OR STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN NORWAY IN  
PEACETIME (REF B). FURRE DEVOTED REMAINDER OF SPEECH  
TO CALL FOR LABOR -SV COOPERATION TO ARREST SHIFT  
OF POLITICAL INFLUENCE IN FAVOR OF "BOURGEOIS" PARTIES,  
LAMENTED CLEAR INDICATION IN NORDLI SPEECH OF COOPERA-  
TION IN THE CENTER AND SUGGESTED THAT SV COULD BE  
FLEXIBLE IN FINDING SEMANTIC FORMULAS TO BRIDGE LABOR-  
SV GAP ON BUDGET.

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R 251041Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 638  
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
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6. PRIME MINISTER CALLS FOR COOPERATION; REPEATS ATOM WEAPON POLICY: IN ADDITION TO REJECTING FURRE'S ACCUSATIONS ABOUT ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF NORWEGIAN NUCLEAR POLICY (SEE REF B). PRIME MINISTER BRATTELI SUMMED UP DEBATE BY RIDICULING THE CONSERVATIVES' SOCIALISM VERSUS DEMOCRACY THEME AND CALLED FOR RESPONSIBLE PARTIES TO COOPERATE ON AD HOC BASIS IN CURRENT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.

7. COMMENT: NORDLI' FIRST MAJOR STATEMENT AFTE HIS FORTHCOMING ACCESSION AS PRIME MINISTER WAS ANNOUNCED REINFORCED HIS REPUTATION AS A PRAGMATIC POLITIAN OPEN TO COOPERATION WITH CENTER OF POLITICAL SPECTRUM. OUTLOOK FOR THIS FALL'S STORTING IS FOR A QUIET , WORKMANLIKE SESSION WITH RELATIVELY LITTEL CONTROVERSY. GOVERNMENT BUDGET AND PROGRAM PRESENTED IN THRONE SPEECH ARE MODEST AND NON-CONTROVERSIAL. LABOR SHOULD HAVE LITTLE TROUBLE IN PASSING VARIOUS BUDGET ITEMS WITH VARYING COMBINATIONS OF SUPPORT. THE MAIN AIM OF THE NON-SOCIALISTS IS TO PROMOTE COOPERATION  
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AMONG THEMSELVES FOR THE EVENTUALITY THAT THEY MAY WIN THE 1977 ELECTIONS AND BE IN A POSITION TO FORM A GOVERNMENT; EVIDENCE OF AN ABILITY TO COOPERATE WILL IN TURN, ENHANCE THEIR CHANCES OF SUCCESS. THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN FORCING A GOVERNMENT CRISIS SINCE THEY CANNOT FORM A STABLE GOVERNMENT AS A MINORITY. AND THE CENTER PARTIES, AT LEAST, WOULD PREFER PRAGMATIC COOPERATION WITH LABOR TO A POLICY WHICH PUSHES LABOR AND THE SV CLOSER TOGETHER, EVEN IF TALK ABOUT LABOR PARTY RADICALISM IS GOOD POLITICS AMONG CONSERVATIVE VOTERS.

8. THE SV APPEARS CHASTENED AFTER ELECTION SETBACKS AND SEEMS LIKELY TO SEEK CONSILIATION RATHER THAN CONFLICT WITH LABOR. TO SOME EXTENT, THIS MAY ALSO BE THE MORE NATURAL STYLE OF LEADSHIP OF SV'S NEW LEADER, BERG FURRE, WHO RETAINS A MEASURE OF RESPECT AND FREIENDS ON THE LEFT WING OF THE LABOR PARTY. SV'S FUTURE POLICY ANDTACTICS WILL NOT BECOME CLEAR, HOWEVER, UNTIL

INS INTERNAL DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN RSOLVED, AND THE ROLE OF THEK  
INTERGRATIONIST COMMUNISTS LIKE REIDER LARSEN CLARIFIED. TO  
DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES, SV LEADERSHIP IS  
MORE INCLINED THAN EVER TO TRY AND FOCUS ATTENTION ON "UNITED  
FRONT" ISSUES LIKE NORWAY'S ATOMIC WEAPONS POLICY; WE ARE LIKELY  
TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THE ISSUE OF NAVAL SHIP VISITS, THEREFORE,  
DURING THE STORTING FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE NEXT MONTH.  
BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

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